

MAY 2005

Teacher's Guide - Introduction Sheet

TITLE: A Police Officer Talked To Us About Bike Safety

SUBJECT: Bicycle Safety

AUDIENCE: Grades K5 - 3rd

SPONSOR: Milwaukee Police Department Safety Division

In 2003, 112 Milwaukeeans were injured in bicycle/auto crashes. Twelve of the children were only 5 - 9 years of age! They really should not have been in the roadway at that age. Children under 11 years of age are better off on the sidewalk, in the driveway, or on a bike path. Safety research has found that the vast majority of these crashes were due to errors committed by bicyclists themselves. Three of the most common causes of bicycle crashes in Milwaukee are:

1. *Failure to yield by the bicyclist when entering the roadway from the street or alley.*
2. *Dart out by bicyclist. Mostly mid-block from between parked cars.*
3. *Failure to obey traffic signs and signals by bicyclist and motorists.*

To bring attention to these all too common problems and to remind students that a bicyclist is a driver, you will receive a pamphlet titled "A Police Officer Talked To Us About Bike Safety." This pamphlet was designed to address the number one cause of crashes for children in K5 - 3rd grades, "Failure to yield by the bicyclist when entering the roadway from the street or alley." We have also provided review questions for discussion to help the students identify solutions to crashes for their age group to reduce the number of bicycle injuries in our community. Children under the age of ten do not have the physical skill and the knowledge to be in the street. The lesson plan and video are intended to convey the message that they should not be in the street.

The Safety Division feels that teaching bicycle safety at this time of year can reinforce safe bicycle driving procedures and produce behavior that can prevent crashes. If you have any questions, contact Safety Specialist Sr. Delores Thomas at 935-7990.

"A POLICE OFFICER TALKED TO US ABOUT BIKE SAFETY"

BIKE SAFETY - GRADES K - 3

Suggested Discussion and Review Questions

1. **How do you know if your bike fits you?**
You should be able to balance on it with your toes touching the ground, the seat should be adjusted right so you feel comfortable, and you should be able to push the pedal as low as it will go and still be able to reach it.
2. **Why is it important for your bike to fit you?**
If it's too big or too small you will have trouble controlling it and you could fall off of it.
3. **When can you drive in the street?**
You should not be in the street until you are 11 years old. Before that you may be too small for the cars to see you and you may not be able to handle your bike in traffic.
4. **Where should you drive your bike?**
You should drive on the sidewalk, but watch out for the people who are walking.
5. **If we stay out of the street, do we ever have to worry about cars?**
Yes. Cars can come out of alleys or down driveways. Whenever you come to an alley or driveway, stop and look very carefully. A car may be coming and the driver may not see you.
6. **Bicyclists wear helmets. Why is this a good idea, even if you only drive on the sidewalk?**
Most serious injuries from bike accidents are head injuries. Helmets protect your head if you fall. Discuss why this is important.
7. **Whether you're walking--or driving your bike on the sidewalk--what's the one thing you must do every time you come to a curb or the edge of the roadway?**
STOP! and look for traffic.
8. **Should small bicycles also have a bicycle license sticker?**
Yes, a license is important to identify a stolen bicycle or to identify a child who is injured on the bicycle.